

## MSBA CORRECTIONAL REFORM SECTION COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of December 14, 2010

Members Present: Michael Berlin, Phil Dantes, Angela Eaves, Wendy Hess, Arnold Hopkins, Roland Knapp, Stephanie Lane-Weber, Alison Leonard-Leach (by telephone), Walter Lomax, Scott Oakley, and Joe Tetrault.

Guests Present: DPSCS Deputy Secretary for Programs & Services Philip Pié and DPSCS Director of Reentry & Integrated Program Services Bonita Cosgrove.

Call to Order and Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Chair Scott Oakley at approximately 6:35 pm and the members and guests were introduced.

Presentation on Reentry: A presentation was given to the members present by DPSCS Deputy Secretary for Programs & Services Philip Pié and DPSCS Director of Reentry & Integrated Program Services Bonita Cosgrove. They discussed the current state of the Department's reentry programming, federal "Second Chance" funding, barriers to successful reentry, inmate idleness and programming, reentry research and performance outcomes beyond simply recidivism, and comprehensive reentry planning. They provided informational hand-outs (attached), and fielded questions. They pointed out that there is a "Maryland Community Services Locator" link available on the DPSCS public access website. Responding to the question "What can the MSBA CRS do to positively influence Maryland's reentry initiatives?" they suggested that we can advocate for change in the federal regulations (at 42 CFR) to loosen restrictions on information and data sharing among federal, state, and local governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations to better ensure continuity of treatment/assistance for offenders and to eliminate the unnecessary duplication of effort and resource expenditure.

The issue was raised as to how CRSC could assist DPSCS. CRSC could support an amendment to the Code of Federal Regulations that would ease restrictions on the sharing of medical information of inmates between federal, state, local, and even nonprofit entities. The current "clearinghouse" structure is limited and does not necessarily ensure that there is no duplication of services a former inmate may have received already nor is it abuse proof. Easing restrictions to allow the sharing of information would also promote greater continuity of care once inmates are released.

Presentation on Aging Inmate Population: Arnold Hopkins reported on the most recent efforts of the ad hoc committee, emphasizing the need to engage the legal community in the issue. Arnold reported that a meeting has been scheduled with DPSCS Secretary Maynard for January 5, 2011 at 2pm, and indicated that the Secretary will be given a copy of the Sourcebook compiled by the committee. Roland Knapp suggested that we should invite Maryland Parole Commission Chair David Blumberg to speak at a Council meeting.

Reentry: Angela Eaves briefly reported on the most recent efforts of the ad hoc committee.

Future Meetings: It was agreed that we would meet January 25, February 15, and March 15, 2011, at MSBA Bar Center, if available.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm